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August 31, 2000

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

David Waddell
Executive Secretary
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37219

IN RE: *Universal Service for Rural Areas --- The Generic Docket*
Docket No. 00-00523

Dear David:

Enclosed for filing is the Petition to Intervene by the Southeastern Competitive Carriers Association ("SECCA") in the referenced docket as well as a check in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

Very truly yours,

BOULT, CUMMINGS, CONNERS & BERRY, PLC

Henry Walker

By:

Henry Walker

HW

HW/nl
Attachment

POSTED
9-500

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

August 31, 2000

IN RE: *Universal Service for Rural Areas --- The Generic Docket*
 Docket No. 00-00523

PETITION TO INTERVENE

The Southeastern Competitive Carriers Association ("SECCA") petitions the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority") to intervene as a matter of right in the above-captioned proceeding pursuant to T.C.A. § 4-5-310.


This docket was opened for the purpose of addressing universal service issues in rural Tennessee and the impact of competition on independent Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers ("ILECs").

SECCA is an association composed of competitive telecommunications carriers, including local exchange carriers, many of whom operate or intend to operate in both rural and non-rural areas of Tennessee. On behalf of its members, SECCA has a legal interest in the establishment of a universal service fund applicable to providers in rural areas.

Granting this petition will not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of these proceedings.

An order granting the petition is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Henry Walker
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Counsel

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

August 31, 2000

IN RE: *Universal Service for Rural Areas --- The Generic Docket*
 Docket No. 00-00523

ORDER

The Southeastern Competitive Carriers Association ("SECCA"), a trade organization whose members include competing, local exchange telephone companies operating in Tennessee, has petitioned to intervene in the above-captioned proceeding which has been opened to investigate the impact of competition on incumbent local exchange carriers located in rural areas and to consider the establishment of a universal service fund for rural areas.

Based on the unopposed allegations in the petition, the Authority finds that, since some SECCA members intend to compete against incumbent carriers in rural areas, SECCA has a legally recognizable interest in the outcome of these proceedings. Furthermore, the Authority finds that the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings will not be impaired by allowing this intervention.

Therefore, the petition to intervene is GRANTED.

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been forwarded via U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, to the following on this the 31 day of August, 2000.

Guy Hicks, Esq.
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
333 Commerce St., Suite 2101
Nashville, TN 37201-3300

Jon Hastings, Esq.
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